



## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Superintendents, Principals & Athletics Directors**

**FROM: Jerome Singleton**

**DATE: November 11, 2020**

**RE: Transition from Fall to Winter Sports Season**

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Greetings:

Let me begin by first congratulating you on a successfully safe Fall Sports Season and then, thanking you for your patience, diligence, and intentional attention to detail as we navigated through the challenges of COVID-19 and participation in interscholastic competitions.

To date, we have completed five of the seven sports offered and the final two are ending. While there were some setbacks experienced by some of the member schools most of each sport season was played and it was done in a safe and health-conscious manner. For that, you are commended.

As we draw the Fall Sports Season to a close, I ask that we not relax, but remain focused as we begin preparing for the Winter Sports Season. Our continued intentional attention to detail is even more critical because of the unique challenges that the Winter Sports Season presents.

Although this sports season offers the fewest sports to our member schools, it also offers the greatest opportunities to contract and/or spread the COVID-19 virus. The sports of Basketball and Wrestling are held in indoor spaces (for practices and competitions) that are sometimes not well ventilated. Additionally, the flu season is upon us and there is an upward trend in the spreading of the COVID-19 pandemic. For these reasons, we must remain focused.

From the onset of this school year, the League has been diligently working to create the best safe and healthy opportunities to offer sports seasons. In trying to carry out these opportunities, the advisement and guidance of multiple health professionals and organizations were and are continually being sought. Additionally, multiple meetings have been and are continually being held with representatives of the League's membership to discuss the most effective and efficient way to implement a process that promotes safe and healthy opportunities for interscholastic sports participation. Through it all, a lot of concession and compromising has and is continually being made. Unfortunately, because

of the volatility of the virus, there is no guarantee that our best efforts will not be met with setbacks.

For Fall sports, that meant initially focusing on developing a plan to offer and monitor a safe and healthy successful regular season. Then, shift the focus to creating an opportunity for playoff competition. All while resisting the temptation to respond to distractions and/or distractors that were not in the best interest of the immediate task.

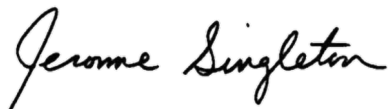
As we continue to monitor the closing of the Fall Sports Season, the focus is now shifting to the Winter Sports Season with the advantage of taking lessons learned from the Fall Sports Season and using them to the benefit of our student-athletes.

Nonetheless, it is incumbent upon us to proceed with focused caution as we navigate the sports seasons and interscholastic competition. We must continue to approach each sports season with a calculated understanding of how one sports season may affect another sports season.

At this time, research has shown that social distancing, face coverings and limited gathering promote safe and healthy environments in which to conduct sports seasons. All precautions that can be implemented to avoid contamination of participants in one current sports season by participants from another (earlier and/or waiting) sports season(s) are encouraged.

Truly it is the desire of the entire membership to offer safe and healthy interscholastic athletic participation opportunities to our student-athletes. We are off to a great start. Let us not get distracted and/or lose focus. Our student-athletes are depending on us!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Singleton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerome Singleton, Commissioner  
SC High School League